

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-10 OMB-01

IO-10 /083 W

----- 117596

O 040230Z NOV 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4678

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL MADRAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS PEKING 2092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR MPOL CH IN

SUBJECT: SINO-INDIAN BORDER CLASH

PEKING GAVE ITS VERSION OF THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER CLASH IN A NOVEMBER 3 STATEMENT BY THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. TEXT FOLLOWS:

ON NOVEMBER 1, 1975 THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA MADE A STATEMENT ASSERTING THAT CHINESE PERSONNEL AMBUSHED AN INDIAN PATROL AND KILLED FOUR INDIAN SOLDIERS IN AN AREA WHICH HE CLAIMED WAS "WELL WITHIN INDIAN TERRITORY". HIS STATEMENT WAS A SHEER REVERSAL OF BLACK AND WHITE AND CONFUSION OF RIGHT AND WRONG. IN ORDER TO SET FORTH THE TRUTH, THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA MAKES THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT UPON INSTRUCTIONS:

AT 1330 HOURS ON OCTOBER 20, 1975 A GROUP OF INDIAN TROOPS CROSSED THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL OF NOVEMBER 7, 1959 AT TULUNG PASS ON THE EASTERN SECTOR OF THE SINO-UNCLASSIFIED

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INDIAN BOUNDARY AND INTRUDED INTO CHINA'S TERRITORY OF

TIBET. PERSONNEL OF THE CIVILIAN CHECKPOST AT CHUNA IN TIBET, CHINA, REPEATEDLY WARNED THE INDIAN SOLDIERS THAT THEY HAD CROSSED THE LINE AND TOLD THEM TO WITHDRAW IMMEDIATELY. IGNORING THIS, AND INDIAN SOLDIERS MADE CONTINUAL PROVOCATIONS AND EVEN OPENED FIRE AT THE CHINESE CIVILIAN CHECKPOST PERSONNEL, POSING A GRAVE THREAT TO THE LIFE OF THE LATTER. THE CHINESE CIVILIAN CHECKPOST PERSONNEL WERE OBLIGED TO FIRE BACK IN SELF-DEFENCE.

AGAINST THE ABOVE-MENTIONED INTRUSION AND PROVOCATION OF INDIAN SOLDIERS, A RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE ASIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA HANDED A NOTE OF PROTEST TO THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM OF THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN CHINA ON THE MORNING OF OCTOBER 22, 1975. HE ALSO ORALLY NOTIFIED THE INDIAN SIDE THAT THE CHINESE CIVILIAN CHECKPOST PERSONNEL HAD, IN THE COURSE OF FIRING BACK IN SELF-DEFENCE, KILLED FOUR INDIAN SOLDIERS AND THAT THE CHINESE SIDE WAS READY TO LET THE INDIAN SIDE COLLECT THEIR BODIES AT ANY TIME. ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 25 THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM OF THE INDIAN EMBASSY IN CHINA CALLED ON THE RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF THE ASIAN DEPARTMENT OF THE CHINESE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND EXPRESSED THE DESIRE OF THE INDIAN SIDE TO COLLECT THE BODIES OF THE INDIAN SOLDIERS AND THEIR WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION. AT 1400 HOURS, PEKING TIME, ON OCTOBER 28 A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INDIAN SIDE CAME TO THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL AT TULUNG PASS IN TIBET, CHINA TO COLLECT THE BODIES OF THE FOUR INDIAN SOLDIERS AND THEIR WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AND SIGNED A RECEIPT. THE ABOVE FACTS ARE EVIDENT: WHILE IN PLAIN FACT INDIAN TROOPS HAD CROSSED THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL AND INTRUDED INTO CHINA'S TERRITORY OF TIBET, THE INDIAN SIDE, FLYING IN THE FACE OF THE FACT, ALLEGED THAT THE CHINESE PERSONNEL HAD CROSSED INTO INDIAN TERRITORY; WHILE IN PLAIN FACT INDIAN TROOPS HAD OPENED FIRE IN PROVOCATION, THE INDIAN SIDE SPREAD THE SLANDER THAT CHINESE PERSONNEL LAID AN AMBUSH.

THE STAND OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON THE SINO-INDIAN BOUNDARY QUESTION IS KNOWN TO ALL. IN ORDER TO
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AVERT BORDER CONFLICTS AND PRESERVE PEACE ALONG THE BORDER, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS STOOD FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO ON THE BORDER PENDING A SETTLEMENT OF THE BOUNDARY QUESTION. TO THIS END, THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ON ITS SIDE HAS TAKEN A SERIES OF MEASURES ON ITS OWN INITIATIVE. OVER THE YEARS, THE PERSONNEL OF THE CHINESE CIVILIAN CHECKPOSTS PERFORMING THEIR DUTIES ON THE CHINESE SIDE OF THE LINE OF ACTUAL CONTROL ALONG

THE SINO-INDIAN BOUNDARY HAVE ALWAYS STRICTLY ABIDED BY
THE PRINCIPLED STAND OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT. WE HOPE
THAT THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES
TO ENSURE AGAINST THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN
FUTURE. END TEXT
BUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BORDER INCIDENTS, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PEKING02092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750381-1004
From: PEKING
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751176/aaaacqgr.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 OCT 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SINO-INDIAN BORDER CLASH PEKING GAVE ITS VERSION OF THE SINO-INDIAN BORDER CLASH IN A NOVEM-
TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, CH, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006